



gam

Georgia Association of Museums

Winter '23

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2023

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UPDATED 6/19/23

Seasons Greetings from GAM!



Marcy Breffle  
GAM President

As we bid adieu to another year, let’s take a quick peek at how GAM fared in 2023.

GAM is on the rise! With a whopping 40% surge in membership over the last year, we now boast 238 active members, including new institutions, individuals, students, and corporate partners statewide. Kudos to the GAM board for spearheading a spring membership drive with one goal: inclusion. We’re all about giving all Georgia museums a say in GAM policies, programs, and professional development. The more, the merrier!

Speaking of growth, the GAM board hustled this fall to chart our future. In September, we sent a survey to all GAM members, and you didn’t hold back! Your grades on our current impact, insights into key museum issues, and directional nudges provided invaluable insight. We convened an ad-hoc committee of past and present board and committee members to draft a three-year strategic plan. Laura Henninghausen, Director of Strategic Philanthropy at Atlanta-based Purpose Possible, guided our group discussions and facilitated the process. A special thank you to our committee members: Virginia Howell, Taj Stephens, Michael Lachowski, Mary Wilson Joseph, Rebecca Bush, Ashleigh Oatts, Jerald Crook, Melissa Swindell, Michele Rodgers, and Matt Davis. The result of all this collaboration: a three-year vision to grow GAM’s impact, build our organizational effectiveness, enhance member

benefits, and continue to support all GAM members at every career level. A big thank you to everyone who supported this process! Our strategic plan will be available on our website in January 2024.

As we all celebrate the end of 2023, I have something else to celebrate — we’re less than a month away from the 2024 GAM Conference in Athens. The host and program committees created an incredible program of sessions, tours, workshops, evening events, and more to help GAM find the right frequency. If you haven’t registered for the conference yet, what are you waiting for?! Early bird rates end January 5 — hurry up! You won’t want to miss hanging out with all your GAM pals in the Classic City. Visit [gamuseums.org/conference](https://gamuseums.org/conference) for more information.

Wishing you and your families a joyous holiday season and many happy adventures in 2024!

Cheers!  
Marcy

News and Notes



**GAM Institutional Members**, we want to share content from your Instagram posts to the GAM Instagram account [@gamuseums](#)! You can help us: when you have a new exhibition, event, or other opportunity to announce, send your post to [@gamuseums](#) within Instagram using the “paper airplane” icon for sharing. Our IG account has 500 followers and growing, and it provides exposure and engagement for our members. Check our IG Story to see what our institutional members are doing.



Symposium  
New Date!

**THE POWER  
OF  
STORYTELLING**

- KSU Center
- 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Mentorship & Networking!
- Rotational Conversations & Feedback Sessions!

**April 20, 2024**

Museums,  
Archives, and  
Special  
Collections in  
a Multicultural  
World

GAM in Kentucky:  
SEMC 2023

In November 2023, several members of the Georgia Museum community had the opportunity to travel to Louisville, KY for the annual meeting for the Southeastern Museums Conference. Joining approximately 700 museum professionals from across the region, participants had the opportunity to tour museums throughout the city, engage in numerous sessions, offsite workshops, the expo hall, professional meetups and networking.



Our state’s museum community was well represented as numerous GAM members served as conference volunteers, session presenters, Program Committee Members, and as part of the Leadership Council.

GAM members also enjoyed several evening social events at museums throughout Louisville including the Evan Williams Brewery, Louisville Slugger Museum, 21C Art Museum, the Frazier History Museum, and Churchill Downs. Members also enjoyed the chance to sample Louisville’s outstanding downtown, which had numerous places to shop, eat, or to participate in a little late-night networking. The local host committee did an outstanding job in welcoming us to their city and this was truly one of the best conferences in the organization’s history.

If you have yet to participate in an SEMC Conference or are interested in becoming more involved with the organization, please visit SEMC’s website at [semcdirect.net/](#). The organization has numerous engagement opportunities throughout the year including virtual learning sessions, opportunities for volunteer service, leadership development, and opportunities to present. Additionally, please mark your calendars for SEMC 2024 in Baton Rouge, LA from October 21-23, 2024. More information will be forthcoming on this conference, and I look forward to seeing a large GAM contingent in Louisiana this year.



**Matt Davis**  
President, Southeastern Museums Conference and Director of Historic Museums, Georgia College & State University

# Can a conversation about the past heal the present?

In 2016, the Coffee County Historical Society and the Coffee County Memory Project launched an oral history project focusing on school desegregation in the late 1960s and early 1970s. During the planning stages, we wondered if anyone would talk to us. School desegregation had long been a taboo subject in the community. Many held vivid memories of this era but, if questioned, said simply, “It went pretty well. Nobody died.” For the next three years, we made a concerted effort to recruit participants. We followed up with some individuals every year until they agreed to speak with us. Although initially hesitant, with many protesting, “I don’t know if I have anything valuable to offer,” once in the interview, the floodgates opened. Former teachers, students, school administrators, law enforcement officers, parents, and activists participated. Interviews focused on school desegregation, but interviewees did not limit themselves to that subject. They recalled Jim Crow segregation and, unprompted, shared current racial struggles. Surprised by information that exceeded the mandate of our inquiry, we realized that interviewees saw current events as part of this continuum.

The wealth of material gathered enabled the creation of two virtual



exhibitions: Emerging Voices of Coffee County and Overcoming Segregation: A Journey Through Coffee County’s Forgotten Stories, which received an Award of Excellence from the American Association of State and Local History in September 2023.

While thrilled with this progress, the websites’ analytics made it clear that the exhibitions were rarely used by the people who had made them possible, Coffee Countians. We began to search for a solution.

COFFEE COUNTY MEMORY PROJECT INTERN, BRICE MINIX, ACCEPTS THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY’S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR “OVERCOMING SEGREGATION: A JOURNEY THROUGH COFFEE COUNTY’S FORGOTTEN STORIES.”

In the spring of 2023, we received GAM’s MUSE Grant, and Dr. Ann McCleary joined our team. Dr. McCleary furnished us with resources to expand our approach to this work. She guided our team in planning a series of in-person events to bring community members together. This series will begin in January 2024. The first topic, “Teachers Telling Stories Out of School,” will feature a panel of retired teachers who will share their experiences of desegregation. Other session topics are “When Being First Meant Being Strong,” the experience of Freedom of Choice Students, and “All Together Now,” school year 1969 – 1970.

COFFEE COUNTY MEMORY PROJECT’S “PLAYBACK & FASTFORWARD” ANNOUNCES A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION HONORING PROJECT CONTRIBUTORS



**PLAYBACK & FASTFORWARD**  
*Can a conversation about our past lead to change today?*  
 Community members will gather to hear eyewitness accounts of Coffee County school desegregation. As we explore this history together, we will gain new insights into our past and our present.

**Teachers Telling Stories Out of School**  
 Educators Remember School Desegregation  
 “Our teachers had to go above and beyond.”  
 Saturday, January 27th, 11:00am-1:00pm

**When Being First Meant Being Strong**  
 The first Black students attend the county’s White schools  
 “We didn’t have the same to be afraid.”  
 Saturday, February 24th, 11:00am-1:00pm

**All Together Now**  
 Bomb Threats, Boycott Parties and Desegregation – School Year 1969-1970  
 “We had no mascot. We had no homecoming.”  
 Saturday, March 16th, 11:00am-1:00pm

**Join the Conversation**  
**PLAYBACK & FASTFORWARD**  
 Satilla Regional Library Conference Room  
 200 South Madison Avenue, Douglas, GA 31533

This series will culminate in an evening of song, stories, and discussion honoring project participants on April 26th at the historic movie theatre, The Martin Center. The following day, workshops will be available to community members interested in “Teaching Hard History” and “Racial Healing.”

By broaching this once taboo subject honestly, we hope to learn from each other and open lines of communication that will enable discussion of present-day events so that together, we can create a dynamic, productive future.

Article provided by Coffee County.

COFFEE COUNTY MEMORY PROJECT’S “PLAYBACK & FASTFORWARD” ANNOUNCES 2024 SEMINARS

[Click here for information on the Museum Services Exchange \(MUSE\) Program](#)

# Georgia Museum of Art

For more than 75 years, the Georgia Museum of Art at the University of Georgia has been serving its home state and more.



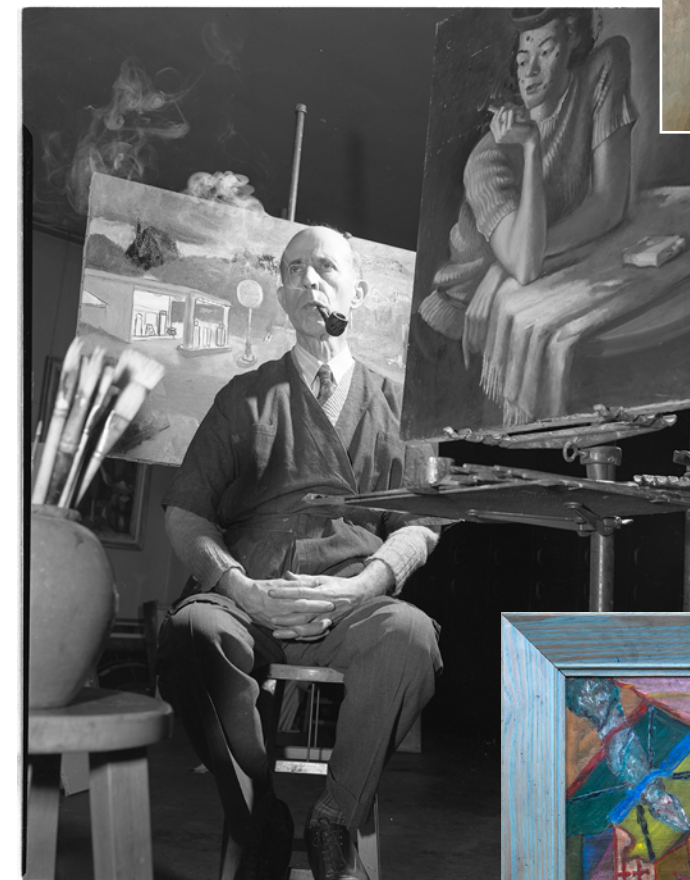
People are usually surprised to hear that the official state museum of art is in Athens, not Atlanta, but the museum's founder was so focused on reaching the rest of the state that he used to put paintings in the trunk of his car and drive them around to show them to audiences all over Georgia.

Alfred Heber Holbrook was a retired lawyer from New York who discovered his appreciation of art late in life, but he came from a family that had always cared about education. His

great grandfather, Josiah Holbrook, helped establish the lyceum movement in the mid-19th-century US, promoting continuing education across the country. When Holbrook began collecting art, it was natural that he should think about using it to further others' education. In New



York, he met Franklin Roosevelt's Federal Arts Program director, Holger Cahill, who suggested the University of Georgia as an ideal location for his collection. Holbrook's initial visit to campus – where he first met famed artist, UGA School of Art namesake and soon-to-be close friend Lamar Dodd – made him fall in love with Athens and the university. He declared that the university had “more evidence of genuine art culture” than any he had visited in the South. He signed over his collection, moved to Athens and enrolled in UGA art classes, where he was known for donning a pink smock and smoking his pipe in class.



LEFT: BEVERLY PEPPER (AMERICAN, B. 1922), “ASCENSION,” 2008. CORTEN STEEL, ED. 1 OF 3. GEORGIA MUSEUM OF ART, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA. MUSEUM PURCHASE WITH FUNDS BY DON AND SUSAN MYERS AND THE W. NEWTON MORRIS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION. GMOA 2010.292.



TOP TO BOTTOM: HOLBROOK LOADING A BEN SHAHN PAINTING TO TAKE IT ON THE ROAD; BEN SHAHN (AMERICAN, BORN RUSSIA, 1898 – 1969), “SUNDAY MORNING,” CA. 1938 – 43. TEMPERA ON PAPER MOUNTED ON MASONITE, 15 3/4 × 23 3/4 INCHES. GEORGIA MUSEUM OF ART, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA; EVA UNDERHILL HOLBROOK MEMORIAL COLLECTION OF AMERICAN ART, GIFT OF ALFRED H. HOLBROOK. GMOA 1947.154; HOLBROOK IN HIS PINK SMOCK WITH A PAINTING OF HIS AND A PAINTING FROM HIS COLLECTION; ALFRED H. HOLBROOK, “BACK STAGE BETWEEN ACTS,” N.D.



The museum finally got a building in 1948 — two galleries in the basement of the old university library — and quickly became part of the campus fabric, showcasing an ever-evolving display of works. Holbrook worked tirelessly to raise its profile, serving as its first director and borrowing art from all over the country to supplement its holdings even as he purchased hundreds of works for its collection.

Holbrook retired in 1969 after nearly 25 years devoted to his second career, but the museum didn't stop growing. The 1970s also brought accreditation for the first time by the American Alliance of Museums. Family Day, a monthly program that remains overwhelmingly popular, started in 1986, attracting young people and their families from all over the Athens area to learn about art and make art projects. The museum's internship program, started in the early 1990s, has provided thousands of undergraduate and graduate UGA students on-the-job training.

TOP TO BOTTOM: THE ORIGINAL MUSEUM IN THE OLD LIBRARY ON OLD CAMPUS; STUDENTS IN THE BASEMENT GALLERY



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: THE 1996 EAST CAMPUS BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION; FAMILY DAY; INSTALLATION OF "ASCENSION," THE CAPSTONE OF THE 2011 EXPANSION

In 1996, the museum moved from UGA's historic North Campus to its East Campus as part of the new Performing and Visual Arts Complex. A major expansion to those facilities opened in 2011, finally allowing the museum to display highlights from its permanent collection continuously, rather than alternating them with temporary exhibitions. Twenty-two galleries and a sculpture garden mean that there is always something to see.



PIERRE DAURA (AMERICAN, BORN SPAIN, 1896 – 1976), “DIAGONAL 5S,” CA. 1929. OIL ON PAPER MOUNTED ON CANVAS, 9 3/4 × 12 3/4 INCHES. GEORGIA MUSEUM OF ART, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA; GIFT OF MARTHA RANDOLPH DAURA. GMOA 2003.388.

Major gifts of works by the Catalan-American artist Pierre Daura, by African American artists, by contemporary artists, by photographers and by Russian artists have massively expanded the collection over the past two decades. Holbrook’s initial gift of 100 paintings by American artists now sits alongside more than 18,000 works by artists and artisans from all over the world.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA STUDENTS IN THE GALLERIES; PICTURE THIS TRAVELING EXHIBITION AT MORRIS MUSEUM OF ART; STILL FROM “STUDY SESH” INSTAGRAM REEL VIDEO BY INTERN SELIA HOOTEN ([WATCH IT HERE](#)); IVAN BEDNIAKOV (ACTIVE SAINT PETERSBURG 1825 – 1848), SILVER TROPHY, 1856. SILVER, 17 1/2 X 7 INCHES. GEORGIA MUSEUM OF ART, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA; PROMISED GIFT FROM THE PARKER COLLECTION. GMOA 2015.8E.



GEORGE COOKE (AMERICAN, 1793 – 1849), “TALLULAH FALLS,” 1841. OIL ON CANVAS, 35 1/4 × 28 1/4 INCHES. GEORGIA MUSEUM OF ART, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA; GIFT OF MRS. WILLIAM LORENZO MOSS. GMOA 1959.646.



VERTIS HAYES (AMERICAN, 1911 – 2000), “JUKE JOINT,” 1946. OIL ON CANVAS, 28 × 36 INCHES. GEORGIA MUSEUM OF ART, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA; THE LARRY D. AND BRENDA A. THOMPSON COLLECTION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ART. GMOA 2012.126.

The museum is a leader among university museums, teaching audiences on and off campus through its many free programs, publishing dozens of scholarly books and catalogues, enabling research through its Study Centers in the Humanities and providing a place to rest and recharge at no cost. Despite the variety of temporary exhibitions on view, admission remains free, helping to remove at least one barrier to entry.

Over the past decade, the museum has collaborated with Athens’ Lyndon House Arts Center on a traveling triennial exhibition that highlights contemporary artists in Georgia and is available at low cost to other institutions in the state. Three quarters of a century after Alfred Holbrook had a dream to provide inspiring art to the people of Georgia, the Georgia Museum of Art is continuing to fulfill that vision.



FINDING THE RIGHT  
FREQUENCY:

MUSEUMS AND COMMUNITIES  
IN HARMONY

JANUARY 17 – 19,  
2024

# Athens!

A LOOK AT HOST SITES TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA ABOUT WHERE WE'LL BE AND WHAT WE'LL BE DOING AT GAM'24



THE GRADUATE HOTEL IS THE HOST HOTEL AND CONFERENCE SITE, LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN ATHENS



THE CHURCH-WADDEL-BRUMBY HOUSE AND HISTORIC ATHENS WELCOME CENTER IS RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET



THE T.R.R. COBB HOUSE NEXT TO DOWNTOWN IS HOSTING A TUESDAY EVENING RECEPTION

# Athens!

FINDING THE RIGHT  
FREQUENCY:  
MUSEUMS AND COMMUNITIES  
IN HARMONY

JANUARY 17 – 19,  
2024

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS AND TO REGISTER](#)



THE GEORGIA MUSEUM OF ART AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA WILL OFFER TOURS AND HOST THURSDAY NIGHT



CARTER COILE COUNTRY DOCTORS MUSEUM IN NEARBY WINTERVILLE WILL BE OPEN AND OFFER A TOUR



THE LYNDON HOUSE ARTS CENTER RIGHT BY THE GRADUATE HOTEL WILL HOST US FOR SESSIONS AND THURSDAY NIGHT



THE UGA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY WILL OFFER TOURS AND HOST US ON THURSDAY EVENING



WE'LL FINISH THURSDAY'S PROGRESSIVE DINNER AT THE FOUNDRY, PART OF THE GRADUATE HOTEL



WE'LL BE IN DOWNTOWN ATHENS WITH PLENTY OF RESTAURANTS, SHOPS, ENTERTAINMENT AND BARS

Full page, \$175

1/2 page vertical,  
\$90

1/2 page horizontal, \$90

1/4 page, \$50

1/8 page, \$25

#### Advertise in the GAM newsletter

The GAM newsletter is published quarterly and sent to all institutional and individual members. It is also available on the GAM website. A 20+ year archive of the newsletter will be available to members only on GAM's website.

To advertise, please contact Michele Rodgers at [gamuseums@gmail.com](mailto:gamuseums@gmail.com).

## New & Renewing Members

SINCE SEPTEMBER 2023

### Institutional

Albany Museum of Art  
Augusta Museum of History  
Autrey Mill and Nature Preserve  
Aviation History & Technology Center  
Bowdon Area History Museum  
Chehaw Park  
Church-Waddel-Brumby House  
Coffee County Historical Society  
Decatur County Historical & Genealogical Society  
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources  
Historic Banning Mills  
Paradise Gardens Foundation  
Southeastern Quilt and Textile Museum  
St. Simons Island Lighthouse Museum  
Tellus Science Museum  
Thomas County Museum of History

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Northeast Document Conservation Center  
Purpose Possible  
UGA Press

### Individual/Student

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Becca Barnes  
Vanessa Blanks  
Marcy Breffle  
Rebecca Bush  
Madison Cosby  
Jerald Crook  
Karin Dalton  
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Akela Reason  
Sara Rogers  
Mallory Stone  
Alice Taylor-Colbert  
Jane Powers Weldon  
Karisa Zdanky

Not a member? [Click here to join.](#)



STILL FRAME FROM "DATE NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM" BY GEORGIA MUSEUM OF ART INTERN SELIA HOOTEN. [CLICK TO VIEW.](#)

# gamuseums.org



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